

REMARKS

Claims 21-45 are pending in the present application. Claim 21 stands rejected as anticipated by Venkatesan. Claims 22-25 and 39-45 stand rejected as obvious over Venkatesan in view of Grover; Claims 26-27, 31 and 35 stand rejected as obvious over Venkatesan in view of Grover and in further view of Nishimura. Claims 28-30, 32-34 and 36-38 were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for his review of the application.

In order to facilitate a quick allowance of the present application, Claim 21 is herein amended to include all of the limitations from Claim 28, including all intervening claims. A clarifying amendment to the preamble is also made. Claim 21, as amended herein, is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 28 and intervening Claims 22-24 and 26 are herein cancelled. Claims 25, 27, 29, 31 and 35 are amended to depend from Claim 21, and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claim 46 is added, and includes all of the limitations of Claim 32, including its base claim and all intervening claims, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claim 47 is added, and includes all of the limitations of Claim 36, including its base claim and all intervening claims, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claim 48 is added, directed to a method of operating a telecommunications network, wherein the network is configured to restore traffic affected by a span failure on a span that is part of a closed path by routing signals along surviving nodes, and to restore traffic affected by a span failure on a span not within a closed path by routing signals along a closed path. Support for this claim is found throughout the specification, for example, at page 5, beginning at line 17, is disclosed the routing of traffic along the closed path when the span failure between two nodes is not a span in the closed path, and at page 9, beginning at line 23, is discussed that the

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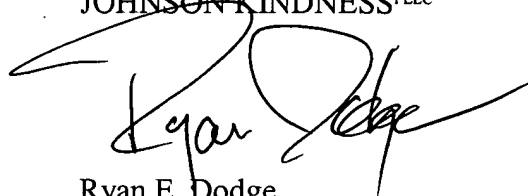
preconfigured closed paths are useful for restoring span traffic both on and off of the closed path, and for any network span failure, not just those along the closed path. Further support may be found on page 37 *et seq.*, which demonstrates the PC paths available for the failure of a closed path span, and for a non-closed path span.

After entry of the present amendments, Claims 22-24, 26, 28, and 43-45 are cancelled. Claims 21, 46 and 47 correspond to claims that have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 25, 27, and 29-42 are believed to be allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim. And new Claim 48 is believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Entry of the amendments and a favorable disposition are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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